

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 940

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Dolly Red Spain of Milan.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Dolly Red Spain, one of Tennessee's most distinguished public servants; and

WHEREAS, during his life, Mr. Spain worked and served with local, state and national leaders as an advocate for farmers and important agricultural issues; and

WHEREAS, Dolly Spain attended the Broadway School near Milan under the tutorship of the late Andy Holt, who later became president of the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after working at the Milan Arsenal in the 1940s, Mr. Spain and Tom Belew formed the Dolly-Tom Farm, a partnership that would later develop the Rolling Meadows Subdivision at the site of the former John Caldwell farm; and

WHEREAS, a friend of the late United States Senator Estes Kefauver, Dolly Spain played an integral role in getting the Wolf Creek Homes and 471 acres of arsenal land donated to the University of Tennessee for an experiment station and 4-H Center; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who fully appreciated the responsibilities, as well as the privileges of citizenship, Mr. Spain served on the Gibson County Election Commission, the State

ASC Committee, the Conservation Commission, and was a charter member of the Milan Livestock Association; and

WHEREAS, when the livestock group disbanded several years ago, Dolly Spain was instrumental in seeing that the remaining assets were divided among the Milan YMCA, the Milan High School Vo-Ag Department and the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spain was highly admired and respected by his peers as a civic leader of uncommon acumen and dedication; he was a valuable member of several business and civic organizations, including the Shriners; Milan Little League Baseball; the Milan Masonic Lodge; the Broadway Community Club, of which he ably served as president; Operation Save Our Soil (SOS), as chairman of the SOS steering committee; and helped organize the West Tennessee No-Till Association; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional gentleman is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Willie Mae Spain; his daughter, Lynda Kay Spain; his son, Paul J. Spain, Jr.; his sister, Lorene Spain Johnson; his brother, Carthel Spain; his two grandsons, Michael and Brandon Spain; and his great-grandson, Landon Spain, all of Milan; and

WHEREAS, the singular legacy of devoted public service and professional excellence that Mr. Spain leaves behind will be long remembered and treasured by his friends and associates; and

WHEREAS, people of Dolly Spain's eminent stature do not often walk among us, and his death creates a void that will not be easily filled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor the memory of Mr. Dolly Red Spain, recalling fondly his life of purpose and commitment and his many valuable contributions to the growth and prosperity of Milan, even as we mourn his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our sympathy and condolences to Mr. Spain's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.